

SAFETY UPDATE



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Summer Safety Inspections

After a long winter summer has finally arrived. For some of you this means it is time to take a well deserved vacation... for all of you it means its time to prepare for the next long winter. Take the time this summer to verify that all of your equipment and storage facilities are ready to take on another year.

Bulk Plant

WEEDS - NFPA 58 (2004) requires that all combustible material, weeds and long grass shall be separated from containers by a minimum of 10 feet. Take that one step further and remove all weeds and tall grasses from your entire bulk plant.

LEAKS – Perform (and document) a complete leak survey of the piping, valves and containers in your plant. Soap test all exposed fittings and pressure test all underground piping.

EMERGENCY CONTROLS – perform (and document) a complete test of all emergency controls. Test all internal valves, emergency valves and emergency electrical shutoff switches for proper operation. Perform “fire drills”

to verify all personnel are familiar with emergency controls and are prepared to handle an emergency.

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS – Inspect fire extinguishers to verify they are pressurized, accessible and ready for service. Verify they have been inspected and serviced by a licensed fire extinguisher company within the previous year.

HOUSEKEEPING – Take a trip to the landfill or recycler and dispose of all the old water heaters, furnaces, regulators, valves and debris laying around the plant. Properly dispose of all tanks and cylinders that are no longer suitable for service.

ORGANIZE the plant to improve traffic flow for the bulk delivery and service vehicles. A well organized plant is a safe plant.

Cargo Tank Vehicles

EMERGENCY CONTROLS – perform (and document) a complete test of all emergency controls. Test internal valves, emergency valves, brake interlock devices and off truck remote shutdown devices for proper operation. Perform “fire drills” to verify all personnel are familiar with emergency controls and prepared to handle an emergency.

LEAKS – Perform (and document) a complete leak survey of the piping, valves and cargo tank. Verify the cargo tank has been hydrostatically tested within the past 5 years.

MECHANICAL SYSTEMS – Have the vehicles mechanical (brakes,

transmission, engine, etc.) systems inspected by a licensed mechanic to verify the vehicle is safe for continued operation.

I have only touched on a few of the many items that must be regularly inspected and maintained in order to provide a safe environment for your employees and the public. Take a good look around, if something doesn't look right it probably isn't right... fix it, clean it, or report it.

Enjoy your summer!